

2016  
ANNUAL REPORT

BRUNSWICK  
SOIL & WATER



*Yours for Life*

Brunswick Soil & Water Conservation District  
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Bolivia, NC 28422  
(910) 253-2830



### Message from our Chairman

As the District's Board continues its hard work protecting and improving land quality, I would like to acknowledge and thank our many supporters for their assistance in continuing to meet our mission.

The Brunswick Soil & Water Conservation District was organized in 1944 as part of the Lower Cape Fear Conservation District. In 1964, Brunswick became its own Soil and Water Conservation District. Since that time, the County has seen a dramatic change in its landscape with a decrease in farming to a rapid growth in residential, eco-tourism, and commercial development.

Today, the Brunswick Soil and Water Conservation District offers a wide array of services -- not just for the protection of farmland and keeping family farms viable. The District's activities directly impact local citizens, individual landowners, organizations, and businesses through: decreasing soil erosion, improving water quality, the enhancement of wildlife habitat and forest management.

The Brunswick Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors include three elected officials and two members appointed by the North Carolina Soil and Water Commission. The Board oversees the office staff in the leadership and management of the county's natural resources.

Gene Ward, Chairman  
Board of Supervisors

### Mission Statement

The Brunswick Soil & Water Conservation District is dedicated to the promotion and management of natural resources through leadership, technical assistance, and education. We encourage, assist, and promote multiuse management for landowners in order to obtain increased and improved land quality. We work with the community through stewardship and the preservation of open space.

## Brunswick Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors



Alan Robinson, Vice-Chairman



Bryan Smith, Member



Randy Sullivan, Secretary/Treasurer



Gene Ward, Chairman



Jody Clemmons, Member

### Office Staff

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## NC Agricultural Cost Share Assistance Program

From its start in the 1980's, the **North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program** has been providing farmers across the state a means to address soil erosion, water quality pollution, and the improvement of soil health. Brunswick County received \$35,544.00 through this program in FY-2016, providing local farmers the ability to conserve natural resources while improving farming production. These programs provided approximately 75% of the cost for these practices. The cost share program practices include, but are not limited to: grassed waterways, cropland conversion of trees and perennial grasses, long-term conservation tillage, water control structures, field borders, and various other practices.



## Community Conservation Assistance Program

The **North Carolina Community Conservation Assistance Program** is a voluntary incentive-based program to install best management practices on urban, suburban and rural lands. Through CCAP, educational, technical, and financial assistance is provided to landowners. Locally, the CCAP cost share program is administered by the Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Some of the best management practices that are eligible are: riparian buffers, backyard rain gardens, backyard wetlands, stream bank and shoreline protection, cisterns, pet waste receptacles and permeable pavement. Brunswick Soil & Water Conservation District received \$10,451.00 for FY-2016.



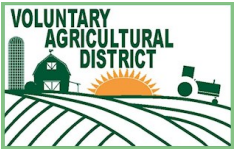
## USDA/NRCS Conservation Programs

The **USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)** provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns. Environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion, and creating improved wildlife habitats. One initiative provided this past year by NRCS was restoration of declining wildlife habitat by utilizing control burns in forestland.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center.



## Brunswick County Voluntary Agricultural District



The **Brunswick County Voluntary Agricultural District Program** provides awareness of the agricultural community and its way of life through the identity and preservation of the agricultural community. In the past few years, the requirements for “farmland” classification under this program have changed; there are now 199 farms with approximately 27,840 acres of farmland in Brunswick County that are enrolled in this voluntary program. The Brunswick Soil and Water Conservation District co-sponsored the Annual Meeting on October 22, 2015. The keynote speaker was Georgia Love, new Regional Agronomist with the NC Department of Agriculture. This was a great opportunity for the VAD members to hear about programs as well as ask questions. A meeting with the NC Division of Motor Vehicles was held on February 9, 2016. This meeting provided extremely valuable information to agricultural producers on laws and regulations as pertaining to moving equipment and trucks on highways.



## The Lower Cape Fear Stewardship Development Coalition



The **Lower Cape Fear Stewardship Development Coalition** honors development projects that demonstrate outstanding environmental stewardship through the protection, conservation, improvement, and awareness of our natural resources.

### Stewardship Champion

“Brunswick County Habitat for humanity received the **2016 Stewardship Champion Award**. Habitat homes traditionally are energy efficient, conserve water and have healthy indoor environments. It’s only natural that we move to the outdoors with efficiency and conservation says Habitat’s executive director Dee Antonio.”



### Special Recognition

Compass Pointe received the **Special Recognition Award** as well as being designated as an Audubon International Gold Signature Community. In 2014

the developer revisited the original design. The new design will have a significant impact on the community’s natural and built environments with a focus on responsible, fiscally sound planning aligned with the lands natural topography and features.



COMPASS POINTE

## Life On The Farm

Funston Farms in Winnabow welcomed 823 second grade students this past year to “**Life on the Farm**”. The program was sponsored by the Brunswick County Farm Bureau. Organized by Farm Bureau’s Public Relations Ambassador Blair Green, and partnered with the Brunswick Soil and Water Conservation District.

Students rotated through 7 educational sessions consisting of soils, composing, photosynthesis, seeds, plant needs, pollination and an educational hayride.



## Envirothon

The South Brunswick High School FFA team competed this past spring at the **2016 Coastal Envirothon** placing 1st in the area for the Future Farmers of America Club. Five FFA students went on to compete at the state level: Chase Slaven, Tyler Parks, Thomas Harrelson, Carmen Peters, and Taylor Scott.

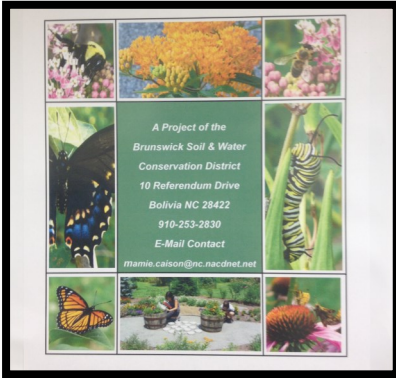


## Annual Resource Conservation Workshop

The **2016 Resource Conservation Workshop** is sponsored by the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in conjunction with the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation, NC State University Soil Science Department, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter. The event was held in Raleigh at North Carolina State University. Two students representing South Brunswick High and West Brunswick High Schools attended: Carmen Kelly and Jacob Cheers.



## Plants For Pollinator



Through the **Plants For Pollinator** program we have reached over 1,500 2nd grade students by distributing plants for pollinator kits. This program was designed to help students discover the importance of native pollinators and study the relationship between the plants and pollinators.



## Rain Barrels

To help conserve water and promote a healthy environment, the Brunswick Soil & Water Conservation District held a continual **rain barrel** sale this past year. The 80 gallon rain barrel being sold captures and stores rainwater for landscape and outdoor watering needs. Residential water can increase as much as 50% during summer months due to outdoor water use. Why not save money, conserve water, and, at the same time, promote a healthy environment by collecting natural rain water year-round.



## Caswell Avenue Community Garden

The **Caswell Avenue Community Garden** continues to thrive and is enjoyed by Southport residents. The garden is now in its third successful year. During this fiscal year, the Steering Committee requested the City Of Southport to assume the administrative responsibilities of the garden.







## No-Till Drill/Aerator Rentals

No-till planting is beneficial over a period of time increasing organics in the soil, increased moisture retention in soil, reduce sheet erosion, higher plant yields and increase carbon sequestration.



Brunswick County Farm Bureau and the Brunswick Soil and Water Conservation District continue to provide the **No-Till Drill** and **Aerator** rental programs to producers at a minimal cost. This past year 653 acres were planted utilizing this equipment .

## Conservation Activities at a Glance

Environmental Community Days

Agricultural Awareness Programs

Soil Information & Maps

No Till Drill & Aerator Rentals

Rain Barrels

Stewardship Development

Plants for Pollinator

Poster/Essay/Public Speaking Contests

Pet Waste Receptacles

Farm Days

Future Farmers Association

Field Days

State & Area Envirothons

Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD)

Teacher Conservation Workshops

Resource Conservation Workshop

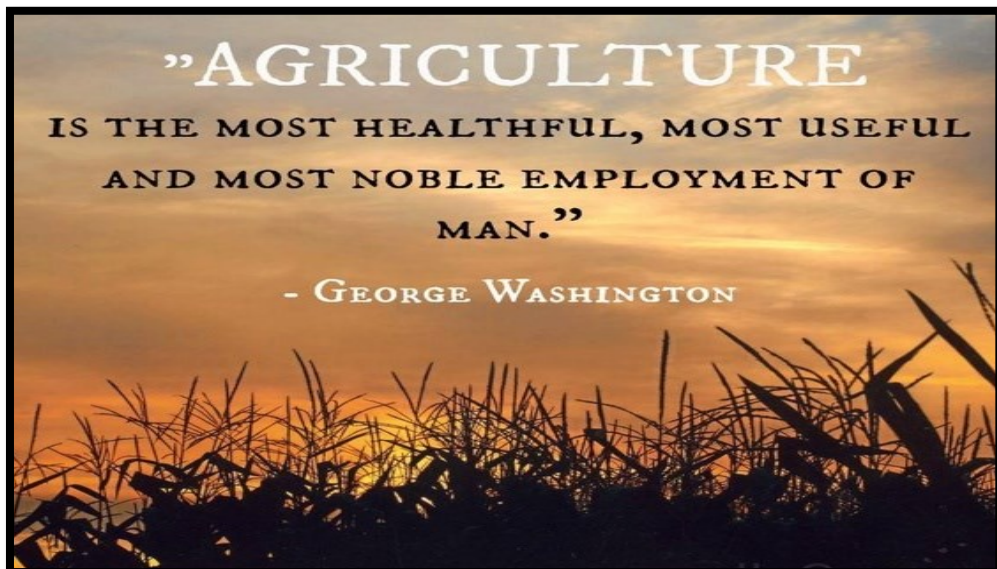
*"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land."*

*- Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac, 1949*



## Accomplishments

- ◇ 737 acres of crop, pasture hay, and wood lands were planned with conservation practices that met the NRCS Standards
- ◇ Soil erosion reduction of 650 tons improving water quality in the Brunswick County Watersheds
- ◇ Waste Utilization Plans written for 348 acres
- ◇ Worked closely with 13 Swine Operators to achieve regulation compliance
- ◇ Conservation to improve soil health for cropland applied to 333 acres
- ◇ Conservation to improve water quality for land applied to 333 acres
- ◇ Conservation to protect and improve the resource base for forest land applied to 81 acres
- ◇ Conservation applied to improve environmental quality to 414 acres
- ◇ Educational Outreach programs presented to over 3,075 individuals
- ◇ Provided technical assistance on services including farm visits, walk-ins, and historical aerial photographs to over 1,349 individuals
- ◇ 653 acres planted utilizing the No-Till Drill and Aerator rental program



**Brunswick Soil & Water Conservation District  
wishes to express our appreciation & support to:**

Brunswick County Board of Education

Brunswick County Cooperative Extension

Brunswick County Commissioners

Brunswick County Farm Bureau

Brunswick County Landowners

Brunswick County Voluntary Agricultural District

Cape Fear Resource Conservation & Development

Caswell Avenue Community Garden

Lower Cape Fear Stewardship Development Coalition

National Association of Conservation Districts

The Nature Conservancy

NC Association of Conservation Districts

North Carolina Department of Agriculture

NC Forest Service

NC Soil & Water Commission

NC Wildlife Resources Commission

USDA-Natural Resource Conservation Service